

# Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE SENATE FWP COMMITTEE:

**RE: SB 285** – An Act revising requirements for wearing hunter orange to apply only to persons under 18 years of age; and amending sections 87-6-404 MCA.

**POSITION:** Montana Sportsmen Alliance **STRONGLY OPPOSES** this bill based on the following reasons:

- This is a safety issue – orange on a hunter is like brake lights on a car. Hunter orange provides protection to all hunters, regardless of age.
- Young hunters are the least experienced so most apt to misjudge target identification (e.g. another hunter).
- In SB 197, as amended, mentors for apprentice hunters must be 21 (no orange). The armed hunter can be 9 and wearing orange! This makes no sense!
- Society has the right and obligation to set standards, like speed limits in school zones, seat belts, life jackets, hard hats and safety goggles.
- It is better to err on the side of safety. There are NO accidents, just avoidable tragedies. People do stupid things; use poor judgment or no judgment. Hunter orange helps mitigate all of this.

Again, we most strongly state our **OPPOSITION** to SB 285.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group.

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